



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Pennsylvania June Acreage

HARRISBURG, PA, Jun 30, 2006 - - Based on acreage planted by June 1, 2005 and intended acres that remained to be planted, the Keystone state's farmers expect to harvest more acres of sorghum for grain, soybeans, winter wheat, barley, hay, and burley tobacco. Oat acres for harvest and Pennsylvania seedleaf tobacco acres are expected to be unchanged. Fewer acres of corn for grain and Maryland-type tobacco are expected to be harvested according to the Pennsylvania Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Corn acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 1,350,000, unchanged from last year. Growers expect to harvest 940,000 acres of corn for grain, down 20,000 acres or 2 percent from a year ago. Sorghum acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 13,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from a year ago. Growers expect to harvest 5,000 acres for grain, which is up 1,000 acres from last year. Soybean acreage planted is estimated at a record high 460,000 acres, up 30,000 from last year's previous state record of 430,000 acres. Eleven percent of this year's soybean acres are expected to be planted following another harvested crop. Soybean acreage for harvest is estimated at 450,000 acres for 2006, up 7 percent from the 420,000 acres harvested last year.

Oat acreage planted in 2006 is estimated at 135,000, down 5,000 acres or 4 percent from a year ago. Growers expect to harvest 110,000 acres for grain, which is unchanged from last year. Winter wheat acreage to be harvested for grain is estimated at 150,000 acres, up 5,000 acres or 3 percent from last year. Barley acreage for harvest, at 48,000, is up 1,000 acres or 2 percent from 2005.

All acres for harvest of dry hay in 2006 are estimated at 1,650,000, up 50,000 acres or 3 percent from last year. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures for dry hay, at 520,000 acres, are up 10,000 acres or 2 percent from last year. All other dry hay, at 1,130,000 acres, is up 40,000 acres from last year.

Tobacco acres for harvest increased 58 percent from a year ago with growers expecting to harvest 7,900 acres, compared to 5,000 acres last year. Of these acres, 1,100 acres are expected to be Southern Maryland type 32 tobacco, 1,300 acres of Pennsylvania seedleaf cigar filler type 41 tobacco, and the remaining 5,500 acres expected to be light air-cured type 31 burley tobacco.

At the United States level, corn planted for all purposes is estimated at 79.4 million acres, down 3 percent from 2005 and 2 percent below 2004. Farmers increased their corn plantings 2 percent from their March intentions. Farmers responding to the survey indicated that more than 99 percent of the corn acreage had been planted at the time of the interview, compared with the average of 98 percent for the past 10 years. Growers expect to harvest 72.1 million acres of corn for grain, down 4 percent from 2005. Sorghum area planted in 2006 is estimated at 6.28 million acres, down 3 percent from 2005, and the lowest since records began in 1929. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 5.32 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. The 2006 soybean planted area is estimated at 74.9 million acres, up 4 percent from last year. The planted area is down 3 percent from the March Prospective Plantings Report. Area for harvest at 73.9 million acres, is also up 4 percent from 2005.

The 2006 winter wheat planted area, at 41.4 million acres, is 2 percent above last year, but virtually unchanged from the previous estimate. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 31.1 million acres, down slightly from the June 1 forecast and down 8 percent from last year. Acres seeded for the 2006 oat crop totaled 4.31 million acres, up 2 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 1.91 million acres for grain, up 5 percent from the 2005 harvested acreage of 1.82 million. Barley growers seeded 3.50 million acres for the 2006 crop, down 10 percent from the 3.88 million acres seeded a year ago, and the lowest since barley planted acreage estimates began in 1926. Acres for harvest, at 2.99 million, are down 9 percent from the 2005 level, and the lowest since 1885.

Producers expect to harvest 62.7 million acres of all dry hay in 2006, up 2 percent from 2005. Harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures is estimated at 22.4 million acres, up fractionally from last year. All other dry hay area harvested is expected to total 40.3 million acres, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

All tobacco acres for harvest in 2006 are estimated at 336,430 acres, up 13 percent from the 2005 crop and 10 percent above the March intentions. However, acreage is 18 percent below 2004 when tobacco quotas were still in place.

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